

3-4-2014

The Prospector, March 4, 2014

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR

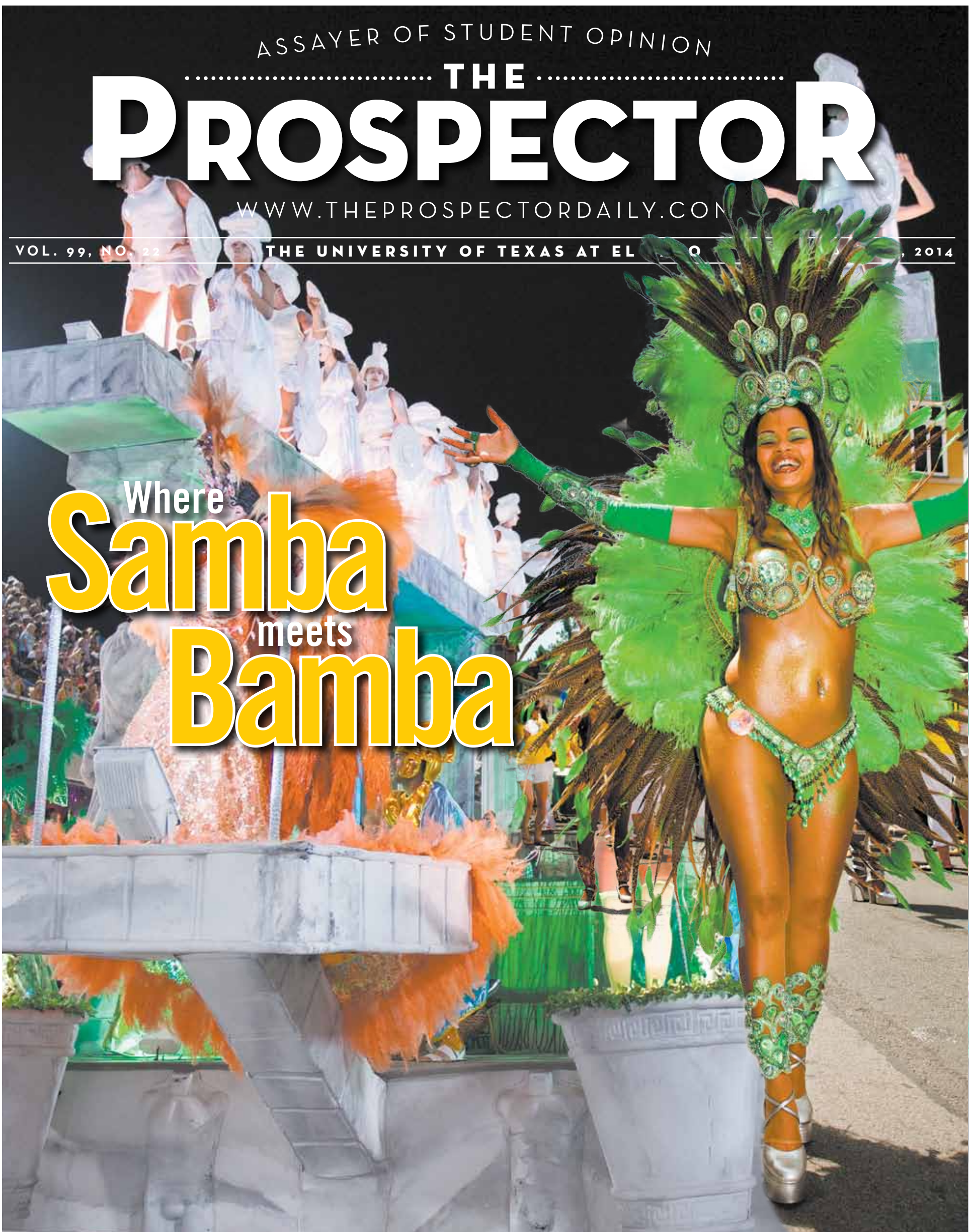
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VOL. 99, NO. 22

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

2014

Where Samba meets Bamba



**STUDENTS
HOST
CARNAVAL
FESTIVITIES**

BY MARIA ESQUINCA

The Prospector

A samba dancer has seemingly transformed into a peacock. A long, blue, elaborate feather headdress adorns her. It pours out of a golden crown beginning at the top of her head and drizzles down over her back.

The crown reaches out into her face, covering her eyebrows and stops at the tip of her nose. Out of her back, more white feathers flow out of her sequined costume. She glitters in the light, smiles, sings and dances. She is just one of many samba dancers in Brazil's Samba Parade.

Carnaval, a Mardi Gras-style festival that's most famously celebrated in Rio de Janeiro, takes up a mile-long street and will be celebrated March 4.

The Brazilian Culture Club is hoping to bring the same to UTEP and will be hosting a celebration called "Carnaval Brasileiro" from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 4 at the El Paso Natural Gas Conference Center.

The event will feature activities such as samba, jiu-jitsu, Capoeira, music, free food and raffles for prizes.

"Brazil is the country we hope to express as a world theme," said Ana Dominguez, president of the Brazilian Culture Club.

Although many students might be quick to celebrate the day, they may not know the historical context behind the celebration or why the holiday exists.

According to Raul Armendariz, senior environmental sciences major, Mardi Gras is a celebration of "Louisiana, boobs, beads—that's it."

Mardi Gras, Fat Tuesday or Carnival has its roots as a Catholic holiday. The day is supposed to be a moment of celebration before the 40 days of Lent, which begin on Ash Wednesday.

"They (students) don't go through the process of 40 days of austerity and reflection," Dominguez said.

Much like St. Patrick's Day and Mexico's Cinco De Mayo, the holiday seems to have outgrown its roots and has been redefined as a big day to party.

"We are a culture that looks to indulge in excess," said Ann Horak, director of Religious Studies. "We re-appropriate culture into our culture of excess."

She also said in some ways the holiday hasn't changed. Since the Middle Ages, Mardi Gras has been a day to celebrate in excess.

see SAMBA on page 3

“
We are a culture that looks to indulge in excess
”

- Ann Horak, director of Religious Studies

This week's poll question: Are you staycationing or vacationing during Spring Break?

answer at theprospectordaily.com

MARCH 4, 2014

PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

JASMINE AGUILERA, 747-7477

COLUMN

A first for minorities at the Oscars

BY ANDRÉS RODRÍGUEZ

The Prospector



We're not all racists, it turns out.

At least not according to Oscar host Ellen DeGeneres, who quipped during the opening ceremony Sunday night that either "12 Years a Slave" wins Best Picture or "you're all racists."

This was the first time the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences awarded Best Picture to a black filmmaker. "12 Years a Slave" director Steve McQueen received the award and dedicated it to those who have endured and continue to endure slavery.

He classified it as a "mark of development" to the press backstage. "It's obviously a progression," he said.

But the fact that the film that chronicles the enslaving of a black man in the antebellum American South—or that it was directed by a black man—hardly reflects a wholly diverse Hollywood.

The Academy is made up of voters who are 93 percent white, 76 percent male and who average an age of 63, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The Academy's first African American president, who was introduced during the telecast, has recognized the Academy's efforts to diversify.

She told NPR about her selection as president, "It's a signal that Hollywood in general is being much more inclusive, much more aware of different voices."

The fact remains that women and minorities remain underrepresented in the industry, but there's a market for it. Woody Allen's female-driven "Blue Jasmine" garnered \$33 million in the domestic box office.

Cate Blanchett, the film's star, alluded to this during her acceptance speech for Best Actress.

She said, "Those of us in the industry who are still foolishly clinging to the idea that female films with women at the center are niche experiences. They are not. Audiences want to see them and, in fact, they earn money. The world is round people."

According to the 2014 Hollywood Diversity Report, films with a larger amount of minority involvement (21-30 percent) had the highest median global box office receipts. However, the report also found that among film leads, minorities were underrepresented by a factor of greater than 3 to 1 and women by a factor of 2 to 1.

Among film directors, minorities were underrepresented by a factor of 3 to 1 and women by a factor of 12 to 1.

Alfonso Cuarón became the first Latin American to receive the award for Best Director. Cuarón is from Mexico City. Just four years ago, Kathryn Bigelow became the first woman to win Best Director.

McQueen's and Cuarón's wins reflect advances in the technical fields.

On the screen, Lupita Nyong'o became the sixth black woman to win for Best Supporting Actress. The rest of the acting categories went to Matthew McConaughey for Best Actor and Jared Leto for Best Supporting Actor.

Although the outlook for minorities to take home an award remains bleak—the study found that a cast that is made up of more than 30 percent minorities has a zero chance of winning an Oscar—Sunday night's ceremony signaled some long-awaited change. Let's hope this gets the ball rolling.

Andrés Rodríguez may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

FROM THE VAULT

Reproduction of The Prospector newspaper page from February 10, 1967. Headlines include: Winter Concert Will Feature CSU Director, Music Group Plans Student Membership, Discussion Planned On SAB Films, No Donor Found For UTEP Bells, SAB Plans Mardi Gras This Month, Graduate Student Dies After Attack.

Junior wide receiver Devin Patterson gets away from junior defensive back Adrian James during practice at Glory Field.

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MARCH 4, 2014

	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
	High 70 Low 46	High 73 Low 44	High 75 Low 53	High 78 Low 53	High 70 Low 44	High 68 Low 45	High 75 Low 48
	Mostly Sunny 0% Chance for Rain	Mostly Sunny 0% Chance for Rain	Sunny 0% Chance for Rain	Partly Cloudy 0% Chance for Rain	Mostly Sunny 0% Chance for Rain	Mostly Sunny 0% Chance for Rain	Mostly Sunny 0% Chance for Rain

EVENTS



FILE PHOTO

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- NV

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CINCINNATI AVENUE ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

DJs Johnny Kage, Esteban Carrasco and Amer will perform at the eighth annual Mardi Gras party. Beads, food and drink will be sold at 10 bars and restaurants in a fenced area near UTEP. The party is from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Cincinnati Avenue between North Mesa and Stanton Street. Admission is \$10.

CLUB 101: MARDI GRAS/FAT TUESDAY PARTY

From 4 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the club's location at 9515 Viscount. There is no cover before 10 p.m. and \$5 after 10 p.m. Information: 544-2101, info@club101.com

SAMBA from page 1

At UTEP and in El Paso, Mardi Gras is celebrated at Cincinnati Street, which will be closed off March 4 and jam-packed with college students with bright purple, gold and green beads hanging around their necks. The event usually provides a day for college students to relax, enjoy and have some fun.

"There's always a thing at Cincy," said Viassa Armendariz, sophomore, biology major. "Girls at Cincy get crazy. They start flashing people from the balcony."

Brazilian exchange student Guliana Pasqualini, who is a senior engineering major, said even in Brazil, the holiday does not stick to its religious roots.

"Most people are not really religious about Carnival," Pasqualini

said. "It's a national holiday, so we only get together and party."

Some students have decided to turn away from the holiday.

"I think the only reason why I don't celebrate it is because there's this idea of getting drunk and throwing beads and flashing people," Raul Armendariz said.

Others are eager to celebrate the holiday, but find it inconvenient to party on a Tuesday.

"If it was on a weekend I would (celebrate) because I got stuff to do. I don't want to kill my brain cells during the week," said Roger Canales, junior education major.

Maria Esquinca may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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THINK BEFORE you DRINK

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UTEP STUDENT AFFAIRS

CAMPUS

Chemistry professor starts radio segment to showcase campus-wide research



BY LORAIN WATTERS

The Prospector

At 9 a.m. on a Tuesday morning, a piano trills through the stereo speakers. Sixteenth notes crescendo and fall, melting together with an English accent.

Every Tuesday and Thursday, listeners of the local NPR station KTEP can hear a four-minute long segment called “100 @ 100: Research for Our Next Century,” which features faculty members on campus in all departments who conduct their own research.

Started by Keith Pannell, chemistry professor, in January, “100 @ 100” focuses on research done campus-wide and gives light to various departments that conduct research, but that may not get recognized for it.

“I thought it was a good idea. I’ve been doing the ‘Science Studio’ program (on KTEP) for over 25 years. I’ve talked to hundreds and hundreds of scientists from biology, chemistry, math, physics, astronomy, astronauts—all sorts of people,” Pannell said. “That’s a half an hour program, it’s in-depth and you get to know the scientist. Most people in America don’t know much about science.”

Born in England, Pannell grew up listening to BBC radio. This is where his interest in radio began, thus fueling his passion to start the “Science Studio” at KTEP.

“Then it became clear that we were going to have a 100th birthday and I thought, ‘hell, why not branch out

and cover research everywhere, not just in the sciences,” he said. “I think, in general, people think that research is just science, while someone’s work in the art or music department is seen as a hobby and I completely disagree with that. Some of the brightest people on this campus have got nothing to do with science and engineering.”

Awareness toward diverse research led Pannell to choose 100 faculty members that he thought were the most interesting.

“There is something going on everywhere, so I wanted to highlight that,” Pannell said. “(The segments are) not very long, but it is enough to give the listener a flavor, a breath of the researcher and their part in this institution.”

Depending on the success and feedback for “100 @ 100,” the show may continue on past the centennial year.

“There are more than 100 faculty on campus and most are doing something creative in their field,” Pannell said. “It could develop into something more.”

Along with Pannell, Norma Martinez is the traffic director for KTEP studios and helps edit and splice the audio together, ultimately making the segment listenable for the audience.

“Just because science and engineering brings in the research money doesn’t mean it is the most important,” Pannell said. “They are important features of the institution, just like philosophy, English and art. If you focus on it, like this radio program does, then there might be

“

I thought, ‘hell why not branch out and cover research everywhere, not just in sciences’

”

- Keith Pannell, chemistry professor

someone out there who finds a particular research in the arts interesting. It may not get big money, but it could get local interest—people come up with new ideas and start sharing them and then it sort of just fertilizes itself after that.”

For more information about “100 @ 100,” visit ktep.org and you can listen to the segment on 88.5 FM.

Lorain Watters may be reached at theprosectordaily.news@gmail.com.

LORAIN WATTERS / THE PROSPECTOR
Keith Pannell, chemistry professor is the host of “100 @ 100” at KTEP.

TRACK & FIELD

UTEP SPRINGTIME ALL DAY
SAT | 3.22 | ALL DAY

TENNIS

TENNIS VS NEW MEXICO
SAT | 3.22 | 10 AM

TENNIS VS LOUISIANA MONROE & WESTERN NEW MEXICO
SAT | 3.29 | 10 AM | 3 PM

UTEP MINERS

SOFTBALL

SOFTBALL VS NMSU
TUES | 3.04 | 6 PM

SOFTBALL VS SOUTHERN MISS
SAT | 3.08 | 2 PM | 4 PM - DH

SOFTBALL VS SOUTHERN MISS
SUN | 3.09 | NOON

SOFTBALL VS NORTH TEXAS
FRI | 3.21 | 2 PM | 4 PM - DH

SOFTBALL VS NORTH TEXAS
SAT | 3.22 | NOON

MARCH 4, 2014

OUR VIEW

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

MICHAELA ROMAN, 747-7477





UTEP gives back

CRISTINA ESQUIVEL & AMANDA GUILLEN / THE PROSPECTOR
Student organizations volunteered March 1 at various locations for this year's Centennial-themed Project MOVE, including Candlelighters of EP, Cielo Vista Association and the Child's Crisis Center.



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NATIONAL



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

Christian Champaign, 18, a senior at Hyde Park Career Center in Chicago, introduced the President to East Room audience attending the My Brother's Keeper event. SHFWire photo by Alejandro Alba

My Brother's Keeper initiative to aid black and Latino boys

BY ALEJANDRO ALBA

SHFWire

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama launched a new initiative to help black and Latino boys across the nation.

The My Brother's Keeper Task Force will establish mentorship programs and support networks to help minority boys stay on track in school.

"By almost every measure the group that's facing some of the most severe challenges in the 21st century in this country are boys and young men of color," Obama said.

Obama signed the memorandum Feb. 27 in the East Room of the White House to establish My Brother's Keeper Task Force, which will be chaired by Broderick Johnson, assistant to the president and cabinet secretary. The task force will work with the Department of Education.

Christian Champaign, 18, a senior at Hyde Park Career Center in Chicago, is one of the many young men who benefitted from the Becoming a Man program, one of many that will be expanded under the new initiative. He introduced the president at the White House.

"I could see myself in these young men," Obama said, standing in front of a group of young men. "The only difference was I grew up in an environment that was a little less forgiving."

This initiative is part of Obama's plan of action, outlined in his State of the Union address, to create more opportunities for all Americans.

Obama has already recruited investors, with more than \$150 million raised. The foundations involved announced that they will also invest more than \$200 million over the next five years.

Some of the foundations include the Annie E. Casey Foundation, The Atlantic Philanthropies and Bloomberg Philanthropies. Many are part of the Executives' Alliance to Expand Opportunities for Boys and Men of Color.

To raise more money, Obama said he will recruit business leaders such as Deloitte CEO Joe Echevarria, former NBA player Magic Johnson and NBA commissioner Adam Silver.

Obama said the program will help improve early childhood development, parental engagement, third grade literacy and educational and economic opportunity.

"No excuses," Obama said. "We all have a job to do and we can do it together."

Alejandro Alba is a senior multimedia journalism major at UTEP. He is currently participating in the Scripps Howard Foundation's Semester in Washington program. He may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

NATIONAL

Obama praises film about sick South Fla. boy who uses robot to attend class



MELHOR LEONOR/ SHFWIRE

David Posnack Jewish Day School seventh-grader Kyle Weintraub, 12, of Davie, Fla., shakes hands with President Barack Obama at the first White House Film Festival. Kyle, who uses a robot to attend school from a hospital in Pennsylvania, was the subject of a student film recognized by Obama.

BY MELHOR LEONOR

SHFWire Intern

WASHINGTON — Inside the halls of David Posnack Jewish Day School in Davie, Fla., a robot takes part in group projects, asks questions about science and math and jokes around with friends.

Behind the device is seventh-grader Kyle Weintraub, 12, also from Davie, who is being treated for lymphoma in Philadelphia, but chose to continue his studies at Posnack with the help of the robot.

"I use my computer mouse to drive through basically the whole school, and I just go to my classes and attend them like normal," Kyle said in an interview Feb. 28.

Kyle's story is the subject of "Posnack Technology: A Day in the Life of Kyle," a film produced by four Posnack students and a finalist at the first White House Film Festival.

Hosted by President Barack Obama, the festival showcased 16 student films from across the country in the East Room of the White House to an audience of students, parents and educators. These films were selected from a group of 3,000 submissions in four categories — all showcasing the role of technology in today's classrooms.

"A wonderful example of the difference technology can make. Even as he is getting medical treatment and fights to get better, Kyle can keep up with his studies," Obama said before he and Kyle exchanged a handshake on stage. "Without even leaving his room in Pennsylvania, he goes to school in Florida. The robot doesn't have a name, they just say, 'Hey, Kyle.'"

Kyle has been using the VGo Communications system, a robot that uses the Internet to take his image and sound from classroom to classroom on his command since the fall when he and his mother moved to Philadelphia for his cancer treatment.

At first, Kyle was using slides from teachers' lectures to learn the material, but his mother, Robin Weintraub, said it just wasn't working.

"Once school started, it was difficult. He wouldn't interact. He wasn't happy," she said. "Now, he wakes up every morning, goes right to his computer, turns it on ... and once he goes, I sit in the other room and have to smile."

Sixth-grader Marnie Rosenblatt, a classmate who worked on the film, raised money to get Kyle back in the classroom as part of her Bat Mitzvah project.

"I saw the robot on a commercial," Marnie said. "And when I actually saw it, it was even better."

The robot cost \$6,700, plus a yearly \$1,000 licensing fee, which is being paid by donations and his parents.

“
A wonderful example of the difference technology can make. Even as he is getting medical treatment and fights to get better, Kyle can keep up with his studies

- President Barack Obama

Junior Rachel Huss and senior Justin Etzine worked with Kyle and Marnie to produce the 2-minute, 45-second film.

"I think that we are the first of many schools to do this. I think Kyle and this whole project will open doors for many kids who didn't know this even existed," Rachel said.

Justin, who found out the film was selected for the festival the same day he received his first college acceptance, said that this technology adds a new element to virtual education.

"You always had that education component, but you always lost that social component," Justin said. "Through the VGo you get to see your friends. You get to go through the daily motion of going classroom to classroom."

Kyle's favorite part about the robot: "I don't have to pack up after every class."

The White House Film Festival is part of the administration's Connect-ED campaign, which aims to connect 99 percent of students to broadband and wireless internet within five years.

Kyle said that, while there are other students using the system, he and his classmates are the first ones to publicize it.

"I hope people know that there are options out there, they're not just stuck," Kyle said.

Melhor Leonor is a senior journalism major at Florida International University in Miami. She is currently participating in the Scripps Howard Foundation's Semester in Washington program. She can be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

MINERS

The Prospector

would like to wish you a very

fun and safe

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION
THE PROSPECTOR
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO SINCE 1915

A MESSAGE FROM

IN BRIEF

STEFFEN POESSIGER PRESENTS “SELLING EL PASO”

Tuesday, March 4 at 4:30 p.m. in room 306 at Cotton Memorial, graduate advertising major, Steffen Poessiger, and account supervisor at Mithoff Burton Partners, will host a presentation on the creation of two successful local advertising campaigns: El Paso Chihuahuas and The City of El Paso’s “It’s All Good Campaign”. For more information contact: adfedutep@gmail.com.

RUBIN CENTER FAMILY DAY: LOSAR—THE HIMALAYAN NEW YEAR

Saturday, March 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the Visual Arts will celebrate this Tibetan holiday as part of the centennial series. The Rubin Center will have Bhutanese arts and crafts, meditation for kids of all ages, storytelling from the Himalayan region and a Buddhist tea ceremony. All ages are welcome. This event is free and open to the public.

TOM BIRKNER, VISITING ARTIST LECTURE

Monday, March 14 at 11 a.m. in the Rubin Auditorium Tom Birkner will visit UTEP to showcase his work and have an open discussion with the public. Tom Birkner is an American-born artist who was raised in New Jersey. Instead of the art school training typical of precocious talent, he spent his formative years racing BMX, lettering race cars and restoring a 1974 Trans Am.

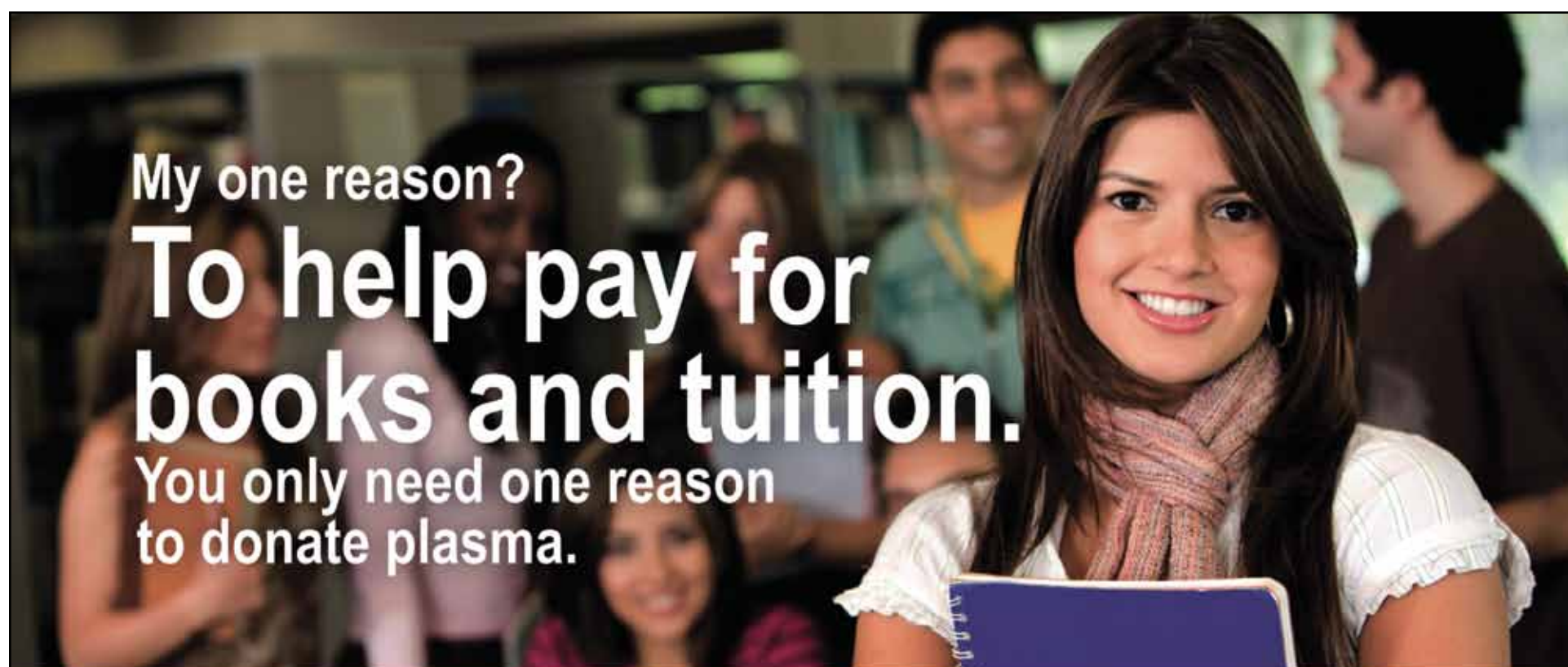
UTEPIA, TIPS FOR SPRING BREAK SAFETY

Tuesday, March 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., UTEPIA will begin, an event that promotes a cohesive and university-wide effort by placing the health and safety of students as a top priority through the promotion of healthy Spring Break tips and fostering alcohol awareness prior to Spring Break. Various student clubs, organizations, departments and college will participate.

TOM BIRKNER, VISITING ARTIST LECTURE

Monday, March 14 at 11 a.m. in the Rubin Auditorium Tom Birkner will visit UTEP to showcase his work and have an open discussion with the public.

Tom Birkner is an American-born artist who was raised in New Jersey. Instead of the art school training typical of precocious talent, he spent his formative years racing BMX, lettering race cars and restoring a 1974 Trans Am. This all changed after seeing a Monet painting in a copy of Modern Maturity, which he regularly swiped from his grandparents for the word puzzles. Immediately mesmerized by all the fun-looking brushwork, he dropped the lettering tools and took a landscape painting class.



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FRONTERA

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

JASMINE AGUILERA, 747-7477

Congreso de Literatura Mexicana Contemporánea por arrancar



CRISTINA ESQUIVEL / THE PROSPECTOR

Daniel Centeno Maldonado, profesor de lenguas y lingüista es coordinador de el congreso que comienza el 6 de marzo.

POR CASSANDRA ADAME

The Prospector

A sus 19 años de fructífera existencia, el Congreso de Literatura mexicana Contemporánea regresa este marzo para presentar los resultados de la lectura de narradores mexicanos que comienzan a publicar desde finales de los años 60.

El congreso es dirigido por los profesores Fernando García, Luis Arturo Ramos y María Socorro Tabuena y se llevara a cabo en las instalaciones del tercer piso del Edificio de la Unión del 6 al 8 de marzo.

Daniel Centeno, profesor de lenguas y lingüística, es coordinador del evento y reconoce el gran progreso que el congreso ha generado.

“En sus inicios este evento era tan solo una reunión inocente entre amigos que querían cambiar el mundo”

- Daniel Centeno, profesor de lenguas y lingüística

“En sus inicios este evento era tan solo una reunión inocente entre amigos que querían cambiar el mundo”, dice Centeno. “Hoy, es uno de los congresos mas relevantes de literatura mexicana contemporánea que se efectúan en la academia norteamericana”.

Textos narrativos, poéticos, he incluso teatrales, jugaran en la boca de académicos y participantes. Una gran parte de los expositores vendrán del exterior. Habrá mesas de universidades mexicanas, brasileñas, italianas y francesas, entre otras.

“Al principio, solamente contábamos con 15 o 20 mesas de discusión. Ahora, tenemos alrededor de 50 a 55 sesiones de debate”, dice Centeno.

Este año, el congreso recordara al escritor duranguense José Revueltas y a Octavio Paz quienes cumplen 100 años de su natalicio. También se recordara la obra de los escritores Federico Campbell y José Emilio Pacheco, recientemente fallecidos.

Emily Vázquez, estudiante de maestría en literatura dice “como parte del criterio de selección, a la poesía en general siempre se le deja por debajo de la narrativa, por eso es importante que en este tipo de eventos se incluya siempre a un poeta”.

Los organizadores del evento eligieron abrir mesas de debate sobre la poseía de Octavio Paz, único Premio Nobel mexicano. Así mismo, se expondrán los trabajos del poeta Efraín Huerta.

Como en todas sus ediciones, este Congreso contará con la presencia de un conferencista magistral, que tratará temas de sumo interés académico. En esta ocasión Debra Castillo, especialista en la narrativa contemporánea hispanohablante, impartirá la conferencia magistral sobre estudios de género y teoría cultural.

No hay duda de que este congreso ha evolucionado, dice Centeno.

“Cada vez nos estamos volviendo mas tentaculares, como un pulpo que se agarra a un submarino y se lo traga”, dice Centeno.

Cassandra Adame puede ser contactada por theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com



MARCH 14-16, 2014

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MARCH 4, 2014

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR

ANDREA ACOSTA, 747-7477

TCM continues to keep the engineering spirit alive



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF COMMUNICATIONS

TCM will take place on March 21. Registration will start at 7:30 a.m. at the registration site. The first 500 students to show up will receive an orange Miner hard hat.

BY JOSE SOTO

The Prospector

Students are gearing up to go green during this year's Texas College of Mines celebration. As the longest-running celebration on campus, TCM strives to keep the original mining spirit of the university alive by engaging faculty, staff and students.

Mining and engineering-related events are put together by the Engineering Student Leadership Council and Engineering Alumni Chapter. They will take place on March 21. Some long-lasting traditions include "Walking the Long Green Line" and "Whitewashing the letter M."

The "M" was first placed on the mountains off Sun Bowl Drive by the Alpha Phi Omega social fraternity in 1969.

"Washing the 'M' with white paint is definitely the most remarkable activity of that day," said Juan Carlos Muñoz, an engineering graduate student. "It started in 1923 at the Mount

Franklin until the 'M' was moved to where it is now."

Gabby Gandara, director of student services for the College of Engineering, said these traditions help the community connect to their roots.

"UTEP was at one time Texas Western College and before that, Texas College of Mines. We started as a School of Mines and Metallurgy (engineering) and have grown to be the awesome university we are today. TCM helps showcase how engineering has taken us to greater heights."

During "The Coming of St. Pat" tradition, a senior engineering student gets voted to be Saint Patrick and participates in a theatrical introduction to TCM. St. Patrick is the patron saint of engineers. The voted student then presides over all of the engineering events throughout the school year.

A new event this year is the re-branding of the traditional song. The current song is about 100 years old, and the college is looking for something more contemporary.

"We currently have an outdated song, and are looking for something more relevant. Please note that the winning song will be utilized for the next 100 years. The contest will reward the winner with \$250 and \$50 to the runner-up," Gandara said.

The Alpha Phi Omega Engineering Fraternity, which was founded in 1919 and is composed of engineering and geology students with high GPAs, will also be handing out student awards to recognize those who commit themselves to the departments' legacy.

"TCM promotes engineering team work. It makes you value what your college is and shows you that engineers is not just a major, but a way of thinking. The biggest benefit of TCM is to realize what we as engineers are made of," Muñoz said.

Gandara said overall the point of TCM is to encourage school spirit.

"In many cases, it's the only thing that keeps students going and succeeding. It also builds a stronger alumni base," Gandara said.

According to Sergio Maldonado, mechanical engineering graduate, he has participated in TCM since 2010 and the idea of TCM being celebrated campus-wide demonstrates how UTEP is an intergrated community.

"This year, TCM is a great opportunity to keep an amazing tradition. But at the same time, to start a new one, where TCM is celebrated not only by the College of Engineering, but by UTEP and our community," Maldonado said. "What a better time to start a new tradition than our centennial celebration?"

Registration for TCM can be done online by visiting tcm.utep.edu or by registering the day of the event.

The first 500 people to show will receive an orange Miner hard hat. Be sure to wear a white T-shirt and comfortable shoes, as you will be partaking in physical events. The department is asking for \$3 and two canned goods which will be donated to The El Paso Rescue Mission.

Jose Soto may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

“This year, TCM is a great opportunity to keep an amazing tradition. But at the same time, to start a new one where TCM is celebrated not only by the College of Engineering, but by UTEP and the community.”

- Sergio Maldonado, mechanical engineering graduate

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STUDENT PROFILE

From a blogger to a fashion guru

BY ANDREA ACOSTA

The Prospector

Editor's Note: This is a new section that will feature UTEP students' success stories. Submit yours at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

From a very young age, Jacqueline Padilla, senior bilingual education major, always loved the art of fashion. She often expressed it by

sketching dresses and coming up with various outfits.

She started a personal blog in November 2012—not knowing that the hobby would give her a new set of opportunities.

Padilla was selected to become a professional Simon Malls blogger and was given a style setter position in May 2013.

"I heard about the blog entry contest through a coworker, Irma Zegarra," Padilla said. "She had received an email stating that Simon Malls was looking for applicants for the blogger and style setter positions and gave me the information, because she believed the position was perfect for me."

The selection process to become a blogger for Cielo Vista includes answering a questionnaire pertaining to

the fashion industry and submitting a personal blog, Padilla said.

"I submitted everything on December 2012, and after a few weeks passed I thought I wasn't selected," Padilla said. "In May, however, I was contacted and was confirmed that I had gotten the position."

Padilla said that her motivation to be a blogger and get involved with the fashion industry started her senior year in high school, and she is now currently contemplating the idea of letting it become part of her higher education.

"I believe that blogging has made me want to pursue all my interests and career options. Although I love being an education major, I want to continue my higher education with something pertaining to the advertisement and marketing field," Padilla said.

Blogging has allowed her to step out of her comfort zone. As a Simon style blogger, Padilla has the task of informing readers about the latest trends, hottest sales and styling tips.

"The blog has pushed me to try trends that I normally would have been too self-conscious to give it a shot," Padilla said. "It really has helped me realize that it is something I should pursue and continue in."

Padilla's blog features different items that are affordable for a college student. "It's not where you got it, but how you wear it," is the advice she adopted from her aunt. She has let it become her blog's motto.

"I am a college student and I know all about wanting to change up your wardrobe while not wanting to go into debt. An outfit marked at an outrageous price shouldn't keep you from losing your confidence in wanting to dress how you want to," she said.

Some of her posts are, "asymmetrical is the way to go," "classy, sleek and light," and "corduroy craze," among others.

In order to talk about the latest trends and how to style them, Padilla takes fashion inspiration from celebrity Cara Delevingne, professional bloggers such as "the Man Repeller" and "Late Afternoon" and everyday people she interacts with along with magazine fashion articles.

"I love combining different prints and textures tying them together with timeless pieces such as the little black

dress. I believe doing so, creates endless options to outfits and makes you stand out," Padilla said. "Black skin-nies, chambray shirts, nude pumps and stripes should all be key pieces to any girl's wardrobe. Personally, I'm obsessed with necklaces, which in my opinion can change an outfit completely. It is also the easiest way to dress up whatever you are wearing."

Using trends from the past to influence modern-day styles is an example that fashion is evolving. Her definition of fashion is to take a trend and make it your own.

"Individuality is what creates fashion," Padilla said. "It is a form of art for those who create and design pieces and for those who wear them. It allows people to have self-expression and confidence. These two key points are something that I think anyone would place high value on."

Irma Zegarra, Padilla's co-worker said that the minute she received the email from Cielo Vista Mall, she new Padilla was the perfect candidate.

"I have known Jacqueline since Fall 2012 and everyone in the office would always compliment the way she dresses," Zegarra said. "I really enjoy reading her blog posts. I end up learning what is in style now, because of what she writes in her blog. As a matter of fact I recently told her that I did not know blue lipstick was in, if it wasn't for a recent blog post of hers."

In the future Padilla hopes to see her blog grow and develop to a larger scale, being able to reach more readers and possibly interviewing fashion icons and collaborating with some of her favorite stores, which include H&M, Forever 21, She Inside and Buffalo Exchange.

She said that for anybody who is contemplating starting their own blog, confidence is the key.

"Just do it! Don't be intimidated by other blogs you view or the chances that your blog might not be liked. You need to start somewhere, and with time, your blog and writing style will improve and flourish," Padilla said.

Andrea Acosta may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.



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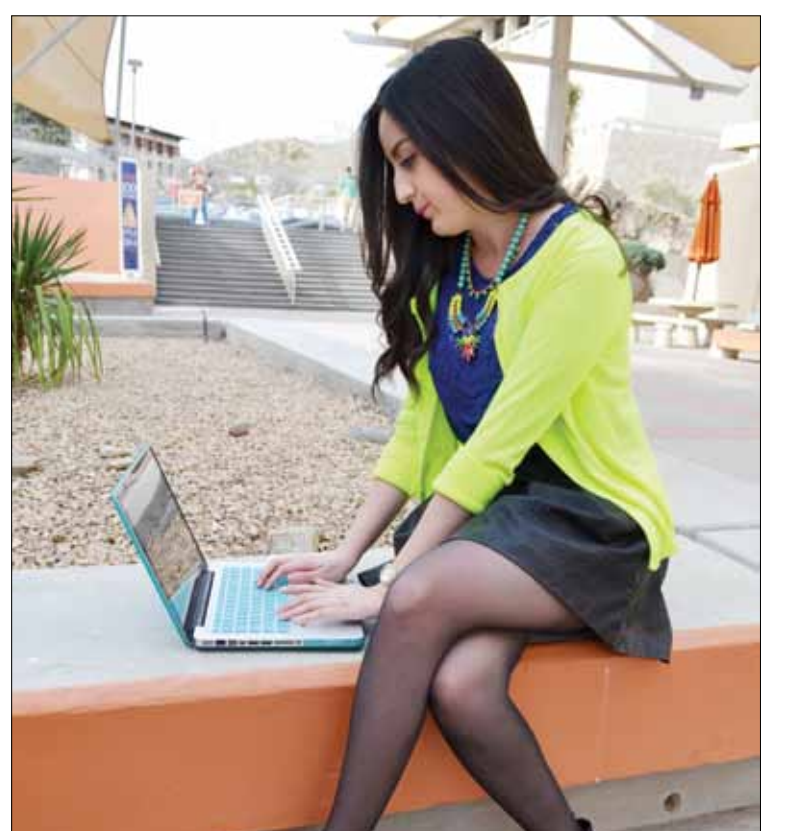
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MICHAELA ROMAN/THE PROSPECTOR

Jacqueline Padilla has been blogging for the past two years, being selected as a style blogger and setter for Simon Malls. (Below) Padilla blogs about classy, sleek and light outfits for spring.

CONVENTION

A convention by fans for fans



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

Sun City SciFi will take place March 14-16 at the El Paso Convention Center.

BY LESLY LIMON

The Prospector

Sun City SciFi is a relatively new convention in town, but don't let that fool you—the coordinators have been involved with various conventions in other cities. Now they're using their connections and talent to bring to the borderland a convention that they call "for the fans, by the fans."

Sun City SciFi was founded in 2012 by the Puhlmans—a family with a love for conventions who have been in the business for more than 12 years.

This is the second year that the convention will take place in El Paso. Although this one is still relatively new to the city, they've managed to accomplish a lot in a short amount of time, including a partnership with the El Paso Convention Center and a kick-starter grant from the city.

"I just love the atmosphere of conventions. It's a bunch of people who are all there because they are a fan of one thing or another, and I must say I've met some of the most interesting people at cons," said Ean Puhlman, the promoter and organizer of Sun City SciFi, and the son of one of the convention's founders. "Cons are just a great experience for everyone and I

highly recommend that you attend at least one convention."

Puhlman and his family have attended cons for a very long time as both attendees and vendors. As a result of this, he feels they are more in touch with what fans want to see in a convention and what kind of things vendors prefer.

"We encourage feedback and ideas from our attendees. In fact we have a panel at the very end of the convention called Cheer and Jeers," he said. "Basically it gives attendees the opportunity to have their voices heard. They can tell us what they liked about the con or what they didn't like. So I think that's what really sets us apart."

This will be the first year Sun City SciFi will take place at the El Paso Convention Center. Since the location is much larger than last year's venue and the convention will be accommodating more events, panels and celebrity guests, the promoters and organizers are anticipating a much larger crowd.

Jasmine Arenivar, senior art education major, said she is excited about attending Sun City SciFi.

"You get to know people who are nerdy like you!" Arenivar said. "The conventions are getting bigger, things

like this really bring people together and I'm really excited to meet the voice actors at this year's convention."

Sun City SciFi has also partnered with the Moral Welfare and Recreation program and the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers program. Both organizations are dedicated to assisting and providing opportunities for military personnel. Special military rates are being offered to military members and their families.

This year's lineup includes more than 70 vendors, 30 artists, 15 celebrity guests and local artists. A few celebrity guests include: Esme Bianco, who is cast as Ros in HBO's "Game of Thrones," Phil LaMarr cast member of "Mad TV," the voice of Hermes in the "Futurama" series and Marvin in the film "Pulp Fiction," and Rikki Simons, who is known for his voice work as the robot Gir in the "Invader Zim" series.

April Delaney, art education freshman, is volunteering to help with the convention this year.

"I've always wanted to volunteer at a con, it looks like fun," she said. "Also, it's one of those classic nerdy conventions. I love it."

Jareny Santiesteban, mechanical engineering freshman and a member of the Anime Appreciation Society of El Paso at UTEP, is also volunteering at the convention.

"It seems like it's going to be fun. I've never been to Sun City SciFi, but I have attended conventions before. I'm excited to volunteer and see what this convention is like," he said.

Sun City SciFi will take place March 14-16. General admission tickets in advance are \$20 and weekend passes are \$35. If you choose to pay at the door, general admission will be \$25 and weekend passes will be \$40. Military, senior and student discounts are available. Children under 12 get in for free with an adult ticket purchase and there will be an onsite day care.

"We have lots of big plans for the future of Sun City SciFi. We hope to continue expanding and bringing bigger name celebrities," Puhlman said. "We are very excited about staying in Downtown El Paso and being part of the continued growth of entertainment industry downtown."

Also we hope to add more single day events like Bobafest during the year."

Tickets may be purchased online at Ticketmaster, at the Plaza Theatre box office, or directly from individuals involved with the convention.

For giveaways and a full schedule of events, tournaments, screenings and panels, visit SunCitySciFi.com or follow SunCity SciFi on Facebook.

Lesly Limon can be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

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APP REVIEW

Let 'Learnist' be your teacher

BY AMBER GOMEZ

The Prospector

Sharing knowledge with a community of learners is easier with fairly new iOS app called "Learnist." Guiding you through a series of articles that others have shared, "Learnist" uses categories to find a particular topic you would like to learn about.

The goal of "Learnist" is for the user to attain information that can be helpful, interesting and entertaining for them. It features different articles called boards made by the community to teach new things like exotic foods, or even how to play Spades. The people who publish these articles range from experts and professors to friends and fellow learners.

It's a combination of Google, YouTube, and other search engines and websites, but with no advertisements and no links that send you to an unrelated website.

With a convenient search bar to narrow down your results from the given categories, the possibilities of what you can read on "Learnist" are endless.

"Learnist" also features basic articles under "What's New" and "Recommended," however, they further narrow the articles down into specific categories one can choose from. Some of the categories include art and design, business, travel, games and more.

When using "Learnist," you begin at the home page, where there are featured articles and a list of categories.

For example, clicking on the tab "How-To" will give a variety of articles that will pop up under "What's New" and "Recommended."

From there you can scroll through the information that the "How-To" page features or search its sub-categories to help narrow down your search further.

By clicking on the sub-tab Crafts, a list of articles appears from which you can pick one or start again from the "Learnist" homepage. On this example, articles such as "How to make a Crossword Puzzle" and "Learning How to sketch" came up.

Each article will have a table of contents to break down the information with pictures to describe the mini chapters. Some of the articles shared will take you to the source of their information so you can read more on the topic.

"Learnist" is a great way to kill time and learn something new in the process. It's free to download and is available for the iOS and Android. The possibilities of things you can find on "Learnist" have no limits and you'll never know what you end up searching for next.

Amber Gomez may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.



SPRING INTO SAFETY AWARENESS



On the road- Always buckle up, take turns behind the wheel, make sure everyone has a valid driver's license, vehicle registration and inspect your car before your trip.

In hotels- Keep doors and sliding doors locked, and don't let anyone into your room unless you can trust them. Make a mental note(s) of where the nearest fire exits and stairwells are located in case you need to evacuate.

At the ATM- Try to utilize ATM's during daylight hours and always be aware of your surroundings.

Keep your money safe- Carry a limited amount of cash at a time as well as a single credit card. Never expose your cash at the ATM or in other public places.

Never go off with a stranger- Always use the "Buddy System" by walking and staying in groups.

Practice safe drinking- Avoid underage and excessive alcohol consumption. **Don't Drink and Drive.**

Avoid going out and/or traveling alone at night—Traveling or walking alone, even clubbing alone can make you a vulnerable target to people whose intentions are less than pure.

Keep in touch with your parents or family friends back home.

Know what to do in an emergency- It's easy to forget that in foreign nations, the phone number for emergency response is not 9-1-1

Even well-prepared travelers may face an emergency, like a lost passport or an injury. Have phone numbers of embassies and consulates which are available to help 24/7.

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QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What are your plans for spring break?

CRISTINA ESQUIVEL/CHRIS ZACHERL/MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR



VALERIE BENCOMO

Senior forensic biology major
 "For spring break I'm staying here for the first half of the week and then the second half I'm going to Las Vegas with a friend."



MAC TORRES

Freshman electrical engineering major
 "My plans are to go to Austin with a couple of friends to go see a concert that I'm really excited for. I'm going to see my favorite band, "Foster the People."



RODOLFO SANCHEZ

Freshman international business and finance major
 "Nothing at all. This spring break I'm going to sleep a lot, watch Netflix and work out a little."



SARAH MANZANO

Freshman electrical engineering major
 "My parents are planning to go to Ruidoso, so I'll probably just go with them. We go once a year if we are lucky and have money."



JENNIFER LICKING

Junior finance major
 "My plans are to go on a mission trip to South Padre. We're going to try to prevent drunk driving by giving students rides. We give them pancakes. Pancakes are good for hangovers."



BLAISE NELSON

Junior computer information systems major
 "I'm going camping at Silver City."



FERNANDO MELENDEZ

Freshman biological sciences major
 "I plan to go to Turkey with my co-workers and friends. We are going to visit historical places and just have fun."



GEORGE SANDOVAL

Freshman English major
 "I'm gonna work, party and try to get laid."



GRISELDA RODRIGUEZ

Freshman biochemistry major
 "I'm going to work, eat, sleep and workout."



JARED GOLDMAN

Sophomore biochemistry major
 "I'm going to study and probably go to San Antonio to visit some family."

CONCERT REVIEW

A sold out concert



MICHAELA ROMAN/THE PROSPECTOR

Digitalism performed March 1 at the Lowbrow Palace March 1. The concert was sold out.

BY LORAIN WATTERS

The Prospector

Green, yellow and purple neon lights danced to synth beats, thumping and pulsating against brick walls and beer bottles with the electro rhythms.

The air buzzed with Digitalism. The German electronic duo made up of Jence and Ismail Tuefekci, took the stage Saturday, March 1 as part of their 2014 DJ Tour.

Johnny Escalante, owner of J&K Present, a local company that seeks new music for El Paso, managed Digitalism's appearance at the Lowbrow Palace.

With the previous deejay remixing 80s tunes, the venue bursted at the seams with fans trying to make their way to center-stage. By 10 p.m., bouncers closed the gate to a sold out

show, leaving bystanders to listen on the sidewalk in the chilled evening.

At 11 p.m., a familiar shaggy face appeared from the thwards of bodies, followed by a dorky blonde in glasses. Without an introduction, the duo took the turntables, adjusted knobs and slowly turned the small space into an electro house party.

Teasing the crowd, they played samples from their songs like "Fahrenheit 32," and ultimately remixing their mixes.

Although they did not play songs off of their older albums like "I Love You" and "Idealism," Digitalism was still a crowd pleaser, exposing the crowd to newer experimental sounds and giving us a taste of what we can expect to see from them in the year to come.

Lorain Watters may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH 6 — "28 DAYS"

Union Cinema/Union Building East, 1st Floor.

As part of the Alcohol Awareness Week at UTEP, "28 Days" will be shown at the Union Cinema at 7 p.m. Starring Sandra Bullock, this movie is about a newspaper columnist who is forced to enter an alcohol rehab center after ruining her sister's wedding.

MARCH 6-8 — XIX CONGRESO DE LITERATURA

Union Building/9 a.m.

The Department of Languages and Linguistics will hold a conference with round table discussion on various topics, such as poetry, fiction and theater. This installment of the Congreso de Literatura Mexicana Contemporánea will feature a keynote speaker, who will present subjects of great academic interest. This year, the conference will feature Dr. Debra Castillo from Cornell University, who has been the author, co-author, translator, or editor of a dozen books and more than 100 academic articles. Castillo specializes in Contemporary Hispanic Fiction, Gender Studies, and Cultural Theory.

MARCH 15 — ST. PATRICK'S DAY 10K RUN

Building 161, Marshall Rd., Fort Bliss/3-6 p.m.

The St. Patrick's Day 10K Run will take place at Freedom Crossing and is open to all. Participants will receive a T-shirt. Early registration is \$10 for active duty military assigned to Fort Bliss and \$20 for all others. Early registration closes March 12 and late registration will be held on site from 1-2:30 p.m. the day of the event.

MARCH 4, 2014

SPORTS

EDITOR

EDWIN DELGADO, 747-7477

Conference champions!



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

Junior distance runner Anthony Rotich (left) and Cosmas Boit (right) finish first and second respectively in the 3,000-meter race.

BY EDWIN DELGADO

The Prospector

The UTEP men's track and field conquered the Conference USA indoor track and field championships on March 1 in Birmingham, Ala., led by distance runner junior Anthony

Rotich and senior jumper/sprinter Mark Jackson,

"It's big, this is probably one of the best experiences we can get as a team," said head coach Mika Laaksonen. "For the most part, everyone had competed on individual events and this time it took a team effort to bring the first-place trophy."

Rotich successfully defended his three crowns from last year, winning gold in the 5,000-meters, the 3,000-meters and the one-mile run.

Mark Jackson also obtained titles in three different competitions—the long jump, triple jump and the 60-meter dash.

Rotich and Jackson obtained 60 of the Miners' 123 points in the competition en route to securing the first indoor title for the Miners since the 2006 season.

"Both (Rotich and Jackson) had an unbelievable meet. I don't know how much more you could ask from them. Each gave us 30 points, so that helped us a lot," Laaksonen said.

The Miners finished with a 45.5 edge on second-place Louisiana Tech, who finished with 77.5 points, followed by East Carolina with 71.5.

"The cooperation and work of all of our coaches has led to a big improvement," Rotich said. "The work that everyone is doing every single day has made the difference for us and the reason we've been doing so well."

Rotich and Jackson were named the top male performers of the competition and Laaksonen was recognized with the Coach of the Year Award.

"Anthony Rotich and Mark Jackson are ready for the nationals, I am confident. They need some rest after the conference," Laaksonen said. "This win will boost their confidence, not that they lack any, but they'll have no issues in two weeks."

Despite overwhelming the competition on the men's side, the women's team failed to duplicate the men's success and finished in fifth place.

UTEP's women won three different events. Senior sprinter Janice Jackson finished first in the 60-meters with

hurdles, with a time of 8.18 seconds. The 4x400-relay team finished with a time of three minutes, 41.80 seconds, while Nickeava Wilson claimed gold in the triple jump.

East Carolina took the crown in the women's championships with a total of 88 points, followed by UTSA with 73, UAB 71.5, Louisiana Tech with 65 and UTEP with 62.

"We knew the women had some strong events that were going to help us score some points, like 60-meter hurdles, long jump, triple jump, 200 meters and 4 x 400," Laaksonen said. "We didn't score points outside of those events, so it went pretty much according to the script."

The men's team, who was ranked No. 12 in the country before the championships, could move up to the top 10 after winning this title.

The Miners will have two weeks to prepare for the NCAA Track and Field Indoor Championships in Albuquerque, N.M., which will take place on March 15-16.

"Nationals is a much tougher race, everyone is very fast and the difference between one another is probably less than two seconds and everyone is capable of winning," Rotich said. "The difference will be in who is more focused."

Edwin Delgado may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

FOOTBALL

Miners begin spring season workout

BY JAVIER CORTEZ

The Prospector

After a ghastly first season under head coach Sean Kugler. The Miners are back to work. The football team conducted their first practice on March 3, and already in day one defensive coordinator Scott Stoker said he sees a vast improvement.

"It's night and day," Stoker said. "This practice, more than any other practice last year, was further along than what we have been. Obviously we should be, the guys understand the terminology. We still got a long way to go, but we are further along from where we were."

The Miners are coming off a 2-10 season, due to lack of experience and an assortment of injuries. Starting quarterback Jameill Showers missed the last five games of the season with a shoulder injury and his return has stirred much of the talk.

"I felt a little rusty today and you can tell," Showers said. "Just trying to get those first day jitters out. I felt comfortable, the protection was great. It is nice being the starter, but it also adds a little bit of pressure because I got to be on top of my game and I can't afford to have any more days like I had today."

Also in the news is the departure of senior wide receiver Jordan Leslie. Leslie led the Miners in receptions and receiving yards for the past two seasons. In 2013, Leslie was named

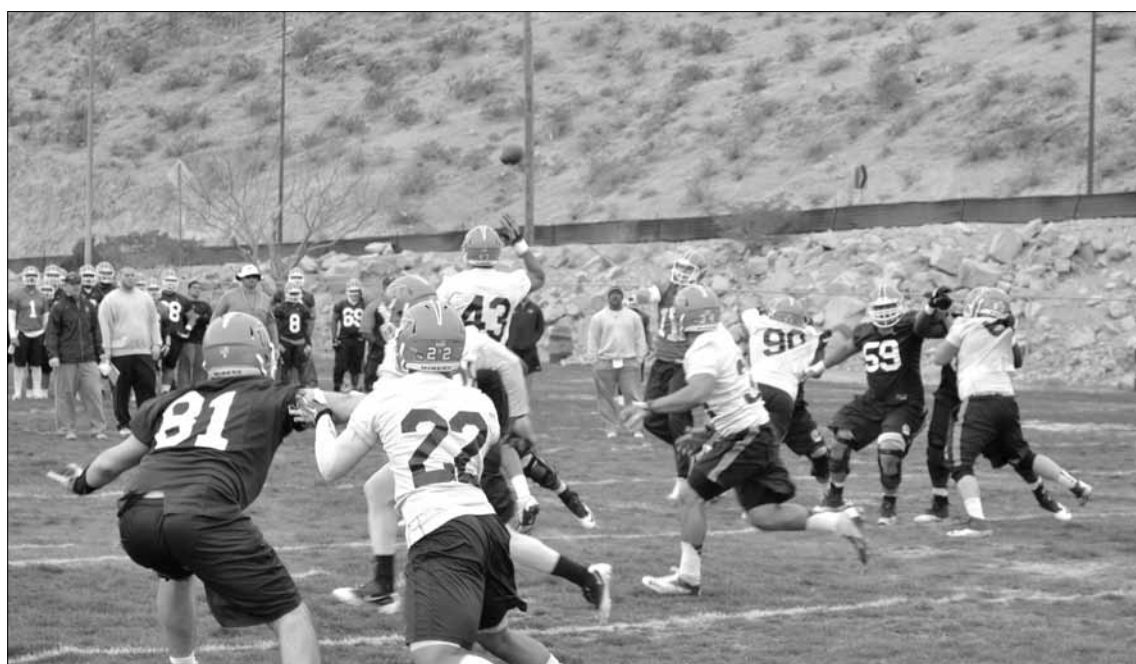
"I think that we are miles ahead from where we were last year around this time. We feel pretty capable with the guys that we have."

- Sean Kugler,
head football coach

to the Biletnikoff Award watch list, which is a reward given to the nation's best receiver every year.

Along with Leslie, junior quarterback Blaire Sullivan transferred to Texas State, putting the battle for the second-string quarterback down to three. Sophomores Mack Leftwich and Garrett Simpson, along with red-shirt freshman Ryan Metz, will compete for the job.

"Leftwich and Garrett Simpson are going to battle for that second spot, and we also have Ryan Metz who we signed and redshirted last year and he did a nice job today," Kugler said. "It will be an open competition behind Jameill and I'm excited about the competition."



Freshman quarterback Mack Leftwich throws a pass toward the right sideline on the first spring practice at Glory Field.

EDWIN DELGADO / THE PROSPECTOR

One thing that remains the same from last year is competition. Many roster spots are still undecided and Kugler looks forward to seeing his players compete for the spots.

"There is competition at every position," Kugler said. "I say there are a few that are locked up, but very few. Competition makes everybody better, so there is an open competition for a lot of spots and that's what makes spring exciting."

This year the Miners have a hefty schedule. The Miners first four games consist of longtime rivals and nationally ranked powerhouses. They will start the season in Albuquerque, N.M., against the Lobos as they look to avenge their overtime loss last year. Then offensive juggernaut Texas Tech comes to town, followed by New Mexico State in the Battle of I-10. Lastly, the Miners head to Manhattan, Kan., to play the Kansas State Wildcats.

Although the Miners might not come out victorious in their first four games, coach Kugler already sees a much improved team from last year.

"I think that we are miles ahead from where we were last year around this time," Kugler said. "We feel pretty capable with the guys that we have, so someone is going to have to step up."

Javier Cortez may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Seeking top four finish in regular season

BY EDWIN DELGADO

The Prospector

The UTEP men's basketball team has one game left in the regular season against the Texas San Antonio Roadrunners, whom they will face on March 6.

As of now, the Miners (21-9, 11-4 Conference USA) stand in fifth place in the conference and are just one game below the four leaders: Southern Mississippi, Middle Tennessee State, Tulsa and Louisiana Tech. The Miners cannot finish lower than a No. 5 seed in the conference tournament, but will try to win in San Antonio to keep their hopes alive to get a top-four seed to get an extra day of rest.

"We still want to get that double-bye, it's better for us to play three than four games in the tournament," said head coach Tim Floyd.

For the Miners to finish fourth, they need a win against UTSA in their final game and a loss from either Middle Tennessee State, who plays on the road against Alabama Birmingham, or a loss from Louisiana Tech, who is on the road against Rice.

As of now, the higher seeds that the Miners could face in the conference tournament would be: No. 12 East Carolina in the second round, No. 4 Southern Mississippi in the quarterfinals, No. 1 Louisiana Tech on the semifinals and No. 2 Tulsa in the final on March 15.

The Miners, who led the conference for more than a month, suffered two consecutive losses that pushed them down in the standings. However junior guard C.J. Cooper doesn't believe the bad results were due to the lack of depth from the team.

"I think it has to do more with our mental toughness," Cooper said. "We lost sight of that and what we got to do is get back to what we were doing right and play hard."

UTEP is hosting the C-USA Basketball Tournament for the first time in three years, when they suffered a dramatic loss at the hands of former conference foe Memphis on the first season under Floyd. The objective for the team remains unchanged—win the tournament to get the automatic berth at the NCAA Basketball Tournament. Floyd said there are still things that need to be worked on.

"We can't keep doing the same mistakes as we did today (Feb. 27)," Floyd said after the loss against Tulsa. "We can't turn over the ball as much if we hope to beat anybody—our bigs need to play more physical and we need to improve our guard play before the tournament."

The conference tournament will be played from March 11-15 at the Don Haskins Center, and most likely the Miners will begin their quest for the title on the evening of March 12.

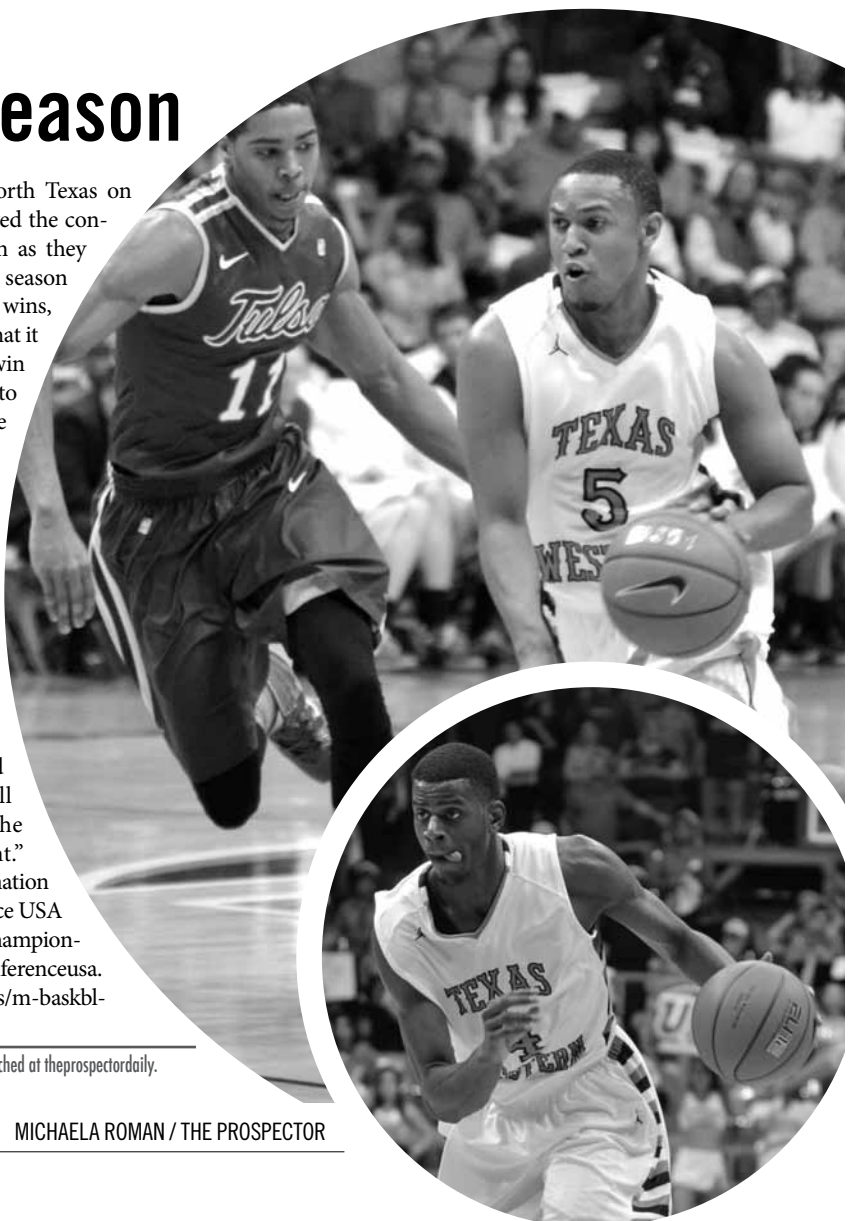
The win over North Texas on March 2 has renewed the confidence of the team as they close their regular season schedule. With 21 wins, it seems plausible that it will take just one win in the tournament to secure a bid to the NIT, but to get in the field of 68 for the NCAA tournament, claiming the conference title is a must.

"They are not just going to give up, they're going to work hard to win," Floyd said. "They understand that we are still trying to get in the NCAA tournament."

For more information about the Conference USA Men's Basketball Championship, visit www.conferenceusa.com/championships/m-baskbl-championship.

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MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Home court advantage has UTEP aiming for NCAA tournament bid



MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR

BY EDWIN DELGADO

The Prospector

After a season plagued by injuries in 2013, the UTEP women's basketball team is hoping to close 2014 on a much better note.

The regular season title is out of reach for the Miners, as Middle Tennessee State has secured the No. 1 spot in the conference with a 14-1 conference record with only one more game to play. The Miners have secured no less than a No. 3 seed for the conference tournament and can secure a second place with a win on March 5 when they take on the Florida Atlantic Owls on the road.

The Miners (23-5, 12-3 in Conference USA) will have a week of rest until they appear in the conference tournament on March 13 in the quarterfinals.

"We've been working on game situations. That's really important, you need to be able to execute and do things down the stretch," said head coach Keitha Adams. "As you get into this part of the year, these things are important things."

Having secured a double-bye, the Miners will play their first game in the quarterfinal round. This will be the only game the Miners will play at Memorial Gym. Semifinals and the championship game of the women's tournament will be played at the Don Haskins Center.

If the current standings remain after the last game, the highest possible seeds for the Miners would be: No. 7 Old Dominion in the quarterfinals, No. 3 Southern Mississippi in the semifinals and No. 1 Middle Tennessee State in the final, but if UTEP falls to third place in conference, they

could face Charlotte (the only conference opponent to defeat UTEP at home this season) instead in the quarterfinals.

"There are a lot of good teams in conference and we can't overlook anyone," said senior guard Kelli Willingham. "We just need to play our game and take care of business."

Senior Kayla Thornton missed the last two games due to a concussion, but is expected to be back in time for the conference tournament.

Adams said that she is excited to play in both the Memorial Gym and the Don Haskins, especially after the increased number of fans showing up for the last couple of games of the season.

"This last few games we had over 5,000 passionate fans and we're excited to play here at home," Adams said. "We have a good relationship with our community and our fan base."

The three seniors, Thornton, Willingham and Kristine Vitola, have been part of a team that has won 90 games in the past four years and formed part of the team that won the conference and went to the NCAA tournament in 2012.

"We still have a lot to work and improve on, but if there is one thing I know about my players is that they are great competitors and never give up," Adams said. "At the end of the day, the team that puts a good little run together will win the tournament...I believe our best basketball is still ahead of us."

For more information about the Conference USA Women's basketball championship, visit www.conferenceusa.com/championships/w-baskbl-championship.

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“We still have a lot to work and improve on, but if there is one thing I know about my players is that they are great competitors and they never give up.”

- Keitha Adams, women's basketball head coach

FEATURE

Bohannon wants to make most of final season



MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR

Senior forward John Bohannon averages 11.7 points and 8.2 rebounds per game this season.

BY JAVIER CORTEZ

The Prospector

The biggest difference between a freshman and a senior is the level of maturity. That sums up John Bohannon's four years at UTEP.

Finishing his last year in style, Bohannon is having his best season as a Miner. His growth off the court is the main reason for his success.

"We have admired his growth as a person and as a player," said head coach Tim Floyd. "I think he has benefited a great deal from past experiences and we have as well, because he has been a much better player this year, much more reliable and I wish he was back for another year."

Bohannon is averaging career highs with 11.7 points per game, 8.2 rebounds per game and he has started 25 of 30 games this season.

Along with ranking in the top 10 in seven different Conference USA statistical categories, he leads the team with a career-high nine double-doubles. Bohannon has made his last season in a Miner uniform count.

Fellow senior Tyler Tafoya has had a front row seat over the past four years and he can speak to Bohannon's growth better than anybody.

"Maturity has been the biggest thing for Bo (Bohannon)," Tafoya said. "He has grown a lot as a person and a player. He got off to a bad start his freshman year, but he kept progressing. I believe he has made tremendous strides from his freshman year till now."

One of Bohannon's biggest accomplishments this year is reaching 1,000

“ We have admired his growth as a person and as a player...I wish he was back for another year.

- Tim Floyd, men's basketball head coach

career points. Although honored to be in the same class with many great Miners, Bohannon's only concern is his team's success. In a career year, Bohannon has been solely focused on his team improving.

"All I'm thinking about is getting a great seed in the Conference USA tournament, then trying to get to the NCAA Tournament," Bohannon said. "I haven't thought about the future or anything else."

All season long Bohannon has made it a point to have the 2013-14 season define his career. Bohannon said his favorite memory wearing a UTEP jersey is still yet to come.

As a freshman, Bohannon was part of the team that suffered a heartbreaking loss to Memphis in the 2011 Conference USA tournament final and he still hopes to make it to the

NCAA tournament in his final season with UTEP.

"I hope my favorite experience comes later in March," Bohannon said. "Hopefully we bring a conference championship. I want to help win a championship in my last year."

In his last year, the Miners are doing just that. Through 30 games this season the Miners have 21 wins, surpassing the 20 wins from the 2010-11 team, when Bohannon was a freshman. The Miners are on pace to finish with the same amount of regular season wins and more conference wins in Bohannon's four years.

"Bo has stepped up this year, he has just shown that leadership throughout his whole career," Tafoya said. "His hard work and determination have gotten him to where he is now. He has not been given the starting position because he is a senior, but because he has outworked every big man this year."

Whether or not the Miners have post-season success, Bohannon wants to be remembered as the guy who battled through adversity and stood the test of time.

"I want people to remember me as the guy who stayed the course, through the ups and downs, I stayed the course," Bohannon said. "I just hope people remember the good times. I gave it my all and I am proud to put a UTEP jersey on every night."

Javier Cortez may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.



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As part of the Smoke and Tobacco Free campus activities, a cigarette butt clean-up took place on Monday, February 24, 2014. Each orange flag represents one cigarette butt, and close to 3,000 flags were utilized in this activity.

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